

Message Text

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DISTAD PONAPE PASS DSLNO PAARLBERG; 'COM PASS SLNO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, TQ

SUBJECT: TRANSITION CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS OF
- MICRONESIA

1. YOU ARE REQUESTED, DURING THE CURRENT SPECIAL SESSION,
TO COMMENCE CONSULTATIONS WITH COM/CFPST LEADERSHIP ON
TRANSITION QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY LEGISLATIVE SEPARATION OF
MARSHALL ISLANDS AND PALAU IN LIGHT OF (PRESUMED, AS TO
PALAU) REFERENDUM RESULTS. PARA 3 BELOW LISTS KINDS OF
SUBJECTS ON WHICH WE NEED COM/CFPST ATTITUDES IN ADDITION,
OF COURSE, TO ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR POSITIONS COM/CFPST
MAY HAVE. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT WE ARE, AT THIS
STAGE, TALKING ABOUT ONLY THE FIRST OF SEVERAL TRANSITION
TOPICS WHICH FLOW FROM THE JULY 12 REFERENDUM. THIS
CONCERNS THE NEED TO HAVE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
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IN THE TTPI REFLECT THE SEPARATION EVIDENTLY DECREED BY
THE MARSHALLESE AND PALAUAN VOTERS. THE MORE DIFFICULT
QUESTION OF TRANSITION TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT UNDER
THE CFSM AND IN THE MARSHALLS AND PALAU WILL REQUIRE FAR
MORE DELIBERATE ANALYSIS.

2. AS BACKGROUND, YOU KNOW THAT IT HAD BEEN HICOM'S AND

MY INTENTION THAT TRANSITION/LEG. SEPARATION CONSULTATIONS

WOULD HAVE ORIGINALLY COMMENCED AT THE PROPOSED JULY 31 SAIPAN PLENARY. THESE WERE PUT OFF BY DELAY OF PLENARY REQUESTED BY CFPST. AUGUST 17 TRANSITION MEETING ON GUAM WAS ALSO TO HAVE SOUGHT COM/CFPST VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES BUT WAS CANCELLED DUE UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES. SECINTERIOR, HICOM AND AMB HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM COM LEADERSHIP EXPRESSING THEIR DESIRE TO BE CONSULTED FULLY ON ANY ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS RESULT OF REFERENDUM. USG BELIEVES COM/CFPST HAS RIGHT TO EXPECT TO BE CONSULTED AND, AS STATED, WE HAD HOPED TO HAVE BEGUN THE PROCESS BEFORE NOW. PALAUAN AND MARSHALLESE VIEWS ON THE IMMEDIATE SUBJECT OF LEGISLATIVE SEPARATION ARE ALREADY WIDELY KNOWN AND ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM TOOK PLACE DURING MY JULY TRIP TO TT. THEREFORE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH COM/CFPST MUST BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY BOTH IN ORDER TO HONOR THEIR LEGITIMATE REQUEST TO THAT END AND SO THAT THEIR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND CONSIDERED BY THE TIME WE CONVENE AT SAIPAN FOR MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL CONSIDERATION OF THE TOPIC.

3. POINTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING. WHAT IS COM POSITION ON PROJECTS IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS, FUNDS FOR WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED UNCLASSIFIED

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BY THE COM AGAINST REVENUES ANTICIPATED TO BE COLLECTED WELL AFTER THE REFERENDUM? HOW SHOULD COM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS SUCH AS TT REVENUE DIVISION AND THE TT SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION BE PARCELLED OUT AMONG THE THREE ENTITIES? WHAT ARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON REDUCING THE COM'S ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD IN LIGHT OF ITS SMALLER SIZE AND DIMINISHED GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY AFTER LEGISLATIVE SEPARATION, AND CONSEQUENT DIMINISHED REVENUE BASE; UNDER CFSM, OF COURSE, SIZE OF CONGRESS WILL BE MADE EVEN SMALLER? THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH FIGURE INTO THE EQUATION AND YOU SHOULD ELICIT VIEWS ON THESE FROM COM/CFPST AS WELL.

4. AFTER THIS FIRST STEP IN CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REPORTING FINDINGS TO OMSN/OTA BY CABLE AND TO HICOM PERSONALLY. OTA/DOI CONCUR. AMB ROSENBLATT SENDS.

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